

From: [Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast](#)
To: [Geist, Laura \(DHHS\)](#)
Cc: [Clifford McKeown \(ra-finance@comcast.net\)](#)
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:58:44 AM

Would now be a good time?

On 10/9/17, 8:30 AM, "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov> wrote:

>Tom,
>
>Would you and Cliff have time tomorrow for a call? I am free any time
>except 9:30 - 10:30 am.
>
>Thanks,
>Laura
>
>
>Laura Geist
>(517) 241-3932
>GeistL1@michigan.gov
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast
>[<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]
>Sent: Friday, October 6, 2017 5:08 PM
>To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>
>Cc: Clifford McKeown (ra-finance@comcast.net) <ra-finance@comcast.net>
>Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs
>Program Expenses for May 2017
>
>Laura -
>
>The computer referenced is on the services side since it is used for
>on-line billing and the services database.
>
>Cliff tells me that we have no prior experience with your suggestion to
>"use the service budget only, and exercise the indirect rate to cover
>your 10% admin."
>
>Tom
>
>
>On 10/6/17, 8:59 AM, "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov> wrote:
>
>>Tom,
>>
>>TANF does have a 15% admin cost maximum applied to the State. However,
>>your budget only includes 10% admin as it was presented.
>>
>>Your prior email indicated that the admin costs appear to be over 27%.
>>When I look through the detail line items of your budget, the only item
>>on the Services budget that I would have any question on is the
>>Computer Expense. Could we better define that to show it is service

>>related, rather than admin?

>>

>>The other alternative would be to use the service budget only, and

>>exercise the indirect rate to cover your 10% admin.

>>

>>Any thoughts?

>>Laura

>>

>>

>>

>>Laura Geist

>>(517) 241-3932

>>GeistL1@michigan.gov

>>

>>-----Original Message-----

>>From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast

>>[<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]

>>Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 6:00 PM

>>To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

>>Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs

>>Program Expenses for May 2017

>>

>>You're correct. That's no longer applicable since state money is now

>>not involved.

>>

>>However, the 15% Admin Cost Ratio maximum still applies since it is

>>funded with TANF money, correct?

>>

>>

>>On 10/5/17, 2:51 PM, "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov> wrote:

>>

>>>Tom,

>>>

>>>MDHHS does not have a 10% administrative cost maximum in our agreement.

>>>We have a 10% indirect expense maximum. If your agency can directly

>>>account for the expenditures, then you can include those

>>>administrative costs as direct expenditures.

>>>

>>>Maybe we need to have a phone conversation about this. Is there a

>>>good time we could speak? I have a meeting today from 3 - 4, but I am

>>>available after and most of tomorrow.

>>>

>>>Laura

>>>

>>>

>>>Laura Geist

>>>(517) 241-3932

>>>GeistL1@michigan.gov

>>>

>>>

>>>-----Original Message-----

>>>From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast

>>>[<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]

>>>Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 1:07 PM

>>>To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

>>>Cc: Clifford W. McKeown <ra-finance@comcast.net>

>>>Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support

>>>>Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017
>>>>
>>>>Yes, because under the contract we have a 10% Administrative Cost
>>>>Ratio maximum. We need to be able to show that in the budget. Always
>>>>works this way in every state.
>>>>
>>>>On 10/5/17, 12:58 PM, "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>
>>>>wrote:
>>>>
>>>>Tom,
>>>>
>>>>MDHHS makes no distinction between direct expenses. Whether those
>>>>expenses are administrative or service delivery, all direct expenses
>>>>should be included within the budget details.
>>>>
>>>>The form that MDHHS uses allows your agency to reflect all direct
>>>>expenses that are applicable to this grant program.
>>>>
>>>>I understand what you are saying about how you have done things in
>>>>the past. However, this is not something that we would normally
>>>>include in a grant. Can you help me understand why your agency feels
>>>>it is important to note which expenses are administrative in nature?
>>>>
>>>>Thank you,
>>>>Laura
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>Laura Geist
>>>>(517) 241-3932
>>>>GeistL1@michigan.gov
>>>>
>>>>-----Original Message-----
>>>>From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast
>>>>[\[mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net\]](mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net)
>>>>Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 12:37 PM
>>>>To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>
>>>>Cc: Clifford W. McKeown <ra-finance@comcast.net>
>>>>Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support
>>>>Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017
>>>>Importance: High
>>>>
>>>>Laura -
>>>>
>>>>Kevin, Cliff and I met to discuss this problem. We had the identical
>>>>issue at the outset of the last contract. We worked this out then
>>>>and it was agreed that we could use the format that we recently also
>>>>submitted to you, for the following very important reason.
>>>>
>>>>If we use the form that you propose, there is no breakdown between
>>>>Admin and Services. If you just go through and try to figure which
>>>>could be Admin and which could be Services, we would be instantly
>>>>breaching the contract as the Admin Cost Ratio would look like it's
>>>>27.61%, even though that doesn't reflect reality!
>>>>
>>>>If the form you propose is the only one that can be used, we would
>>>>need to have the ability to have one set titled, "DIRECT EXPENSES -
>>>>ADMIN"

>>>>>and one set titled, "DIRECT EXPENSES - SERVICES". Is that possible?

>>>>>

>>>>>Thank you!

>>>>>Tom

>>>>>

>>>>>On 10/4/17, 5:20 PM, "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

>>>>>wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>>Hi Tom and Cliff,

>>>>>

>>>>>There are items in your proposed budget that do not belong in the

>>>>>Contractual category. Contractual is intended for agencies and

>>>>>individuals that work on the programmatic scope of the project. The

>>>>>legal consultant, database consultant, accounting, and equipment

>>>>>costs all belong in the Other Expenses category.

>>>>>

>>>>>I have updated the budget in EGrAMS. Please review and let me know

>>>>>if you have any issues.

>>>>>

>>>>>Thank you,

>>>>>Laura

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>Laura Geist

>>>>>(517) 241-3932

>>>>>GeistL1@michigan.gov

>>>>>

>>>>>-----Original Message-----

>>>>>From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast

>>>>>[<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]

>>>>>Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 3:18 PM

>>>>>To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

>>>>>Cc: Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>

>>>>>Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support

>>>>>Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

>>>>>

>>>>>Laura -

>>>>>

>>>>>Cliff completed the budget and I am attaching it here for your review.

>>>>>I am forwarding it since Cliff's email's are apparently being

>>>>>blocked or redirected to a spam folder for some reason.

>>>>>

>>>>>If you have any questions on the budget, please contact Cliff

>>>>>directly

>>>>>at:

>>>>>(717) 541-7833.

>>>>>

>>>>>Thank you!

>>>>>Tom

>>>>>

>>>>>On 10/2/17, 8:49 AM, "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

>>>>>wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>>Hi Cliff,

>>>>>

>>>>>The attached Excel document should assist you in completing the

>>>>>detailed budget.

